

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program Fish Assessment Process
Species and Assessment Variable Selection Worksheet
September 13, 1996**

Worksheet Description

The attached worksheet summarizes the results of the species and assessment variable selection process and incorporates the priorities assigned by participants in the development of the assessment process. The assessment variables are presented according to species and fish community. Assessment variables that were ranked as 1 and 2 for species identified as important (i.e., see the Species and Assessment Variable Selection, September 6, 1996) are included in the worksheet (Table I). Although potential impact assessment tools are identified for some impact assessment variables, listing of tools in the worksheet is preliminary. The purpose of the worksheet is to focus efforts during the fish assessment methods team meeting.

Selection of assessment variables also depends on potential change in the assessment variable that could be attributable to CALFED alternatives. The CALFED action that would likely affect the assessment variable is listed in Table I. "A" indicates potential changes in conveyance and storage components (variable between alternatives). "B" indicates potential changes attributable to the Water Quality Program (common to all alternatives). "C" indicates potential changes attributable to the Ecosystem Restoration Program (common to all alternatives). Two assessment variables, disease and species interactions, would not be directly affected by CALFED actions and are not included among the assessment variables in Table I.

As mentioned previously, assessment variables that were ranked as 1 and 2 are included in the worksheet (rank is described in a following section). The rank assigned the assessment variable is listed in the worksheet under "Species Response, Level" (Table I). Rank of assessment variables assigned by all participants and rank interpreted from preliminary work by the Estuarine Ecology Project are also listed in the worksheet (Table I, under "Species Response, Variation").

The fish life stages potentially affected by changes in the assessment variables are identified in the worksheet and include adult, eggs, larvae, and juveniles (Table I, "Affected Life Stages"). In addition to the species and life stages listed, assessment for some species will receive additional focus-based run timing (i.e., chinook salmon will be treated as multiple species including fall, late fall, winter, and spring runs) and geographical distribution (i.e., species populations that use specific streams and rivers).